

Active Reading

Night chapters 6 through 9

In this section, Wiesel is pushed closer and closer toward hopelessness and death. His inexplicable will to live and the realities of life pull him back again and again. As you read, think about the events and emotions that influence Wiesel's zigzag journey between death and life. In the chart below, record examples of events that create a sense of hopelessness and events that provide hope.

Hopelessness and Death		Hope and Life
pain in foot; exhaustion, death seems a release	→	His father needs Wiesel's support; Wiesel cannot abandon him
	→	
	→	
	→	
	→	
	→	

Responding

Night chapters 6 through 9

Personal Response

What feelings and thoughts went through your mind as you read about Wiesel's final experiences as a German prisoner? What would you say if you could talk to him about this time in his life? What would you want him to explain to you?

Analyzing Literature

Recall and Interpret

1. Why do Wiesel and his father leave Buna? How do they respond to the circumstances of the forced march?

2. What happens between Rabbi Eliahou and his son? What does Wiesel's reaction to this incident reveal about his relationship with God?

3. How does Wiesel treat his father during the journey to Buchenwald and later during Chlomo's illness? How does Wiesel's link to his father affect his will to survive?

Responding

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Analyzing Literature (*continued*)

Evaluate and Connect

4. Given their life or death situation, do you believe Wiesel's attitude toward his father was understandable? Explain your reactions.

5. Wiesel believes that remembering the Holocaust will help to ensure that this type of atrocity does not occur in the future. Do you think learning about historical events can guide people to behave differently? Explain.

Literature and Writing

Differences in Language

Compare and contrast the language in chapters 6 through 9 with that of chapters 1 through 5. Based on the differences in vocabulary and dialogue, what kinds of physical and emotional changes do you think Wiesel, his father, and the other prisoners experience during their final months of imprisonment? Write your evaluation in a brief essay.

Extending Your Response

Literature Groups

According to political scientist Raul Hilberg, Holocaust survivors shared these common features: "realism, rapid decision making, and tenacious holding on to life." In your group, find and reread passages in which various prisoners combat the urge to give up hope. Recall your **Focus Activity** writings as you discuss the results of prisoners' choices. Consider: Why do some prisoners give up hope? What kinds of events impact their loss of hope? What, if any, inner or outer forces, help the survivors to endure?

Learning for Life

Imagine you are an Allied soldier who helps liberate prisoners from a concentration camp. Write a report to your commanding officer explaining the situation you encountered. Use passages and details from the book, along with information gathered from background readings, to generate an accurate, objective description of your findings.

Performing

View one or more films about the Holocaust. Work in small groups to script a scene from *Night* for a film version. Select or create appropriate background music. Perform your scene for the class, videotaping it if possible.



Save your work for your portfolio.